

While Mr. Lowrance makes some valid points I cannot concur with his petition. Morse code has been part of Amateur radio for a long time. However, just like other technologies that have evolved and been adopted into this service there are others that must be cast off. Nothing in any of the other petitions regarding modifications to the Amateur Radio Service licensing structure forbid the use of morse code, or CW, as a telecommunications method. While eliminating a knowledge of morse code to obtain an advanced Amateur license may be a good introduction to the language. There are other ways to learn the code without having it held as a condition of HF operation. Again, while there may be circumstances where CW signals can penetrate poor propagation conditions newer digital technologies, such as PSK31, can fill the need as well. In conclusion, in order for Amateur radio to expand its user base and provide access to a key portion of the hobby, HF operation, then the need for morse code as a barrier to access to there bands needs to be eliminated.

Respectfull submitted,
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